



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

saturated brine became in the course of the autumn more or less injured by fibrous gelatinous mould growing upon them; but those which were kept in brine, to which more salt than it was capable of dissolving had been added, so as to saturate with salt the juices of the vegetable preparations themselves, have undergone no decomposition or change, except that of having lost their colour.

No. V.

RICE PAPER.

THE so called rice paper of China is imported into this country in considerable quantity, where it is employed as a material for artificial flowers, and for other ornamental purposes. Its common name shews the popular opinion respecting its origin. The subjoined extract from a letter by John Reeves, Esq. of Canton, a member of the Society, shews that the rice paper is not a manufactured article, but an unchanged vegetable stem, cut spirally, and afterwards flattened by pressure.

SIR,

Canton, March 7, 1826.

My son will forward to you a sheet of the substance called in England "rice paper," and a piece of the plant (or, I should rather say, of the branch of the plant) from which it is made; but whether this is a tree or shrub, I cannot at present discover, as the person from whom I

have my information had only seen the mode of cutting and using the plant.

The branches (?) being cut into lengths of the intended, or usual, breadth of the sheet of rice paper, are placed upon a thick piece of copper, with two raised edges, as guides to keep them steady; and being held in the left hand, are presented to the edge of a large knife, about ten inches long and three inches broad, made very sharp, and held in the right hand.

A slight incision being made in the branch for its whole length, it is kept moving round by the left hand, while the knife is also kept in motion by the right hand, and is thus sliced or pared down from circumference to centre, and then spread out to flatten.

The sheets are usually made up into bundles of nineteen or twenty pieces each, which weigh about twenty-three ounces, and are sold wholesale for about one dollar a bundle.

The refuse pieces, such as that sent you, are used for making artificial flowers.

It is chiefly brought from the island of Formosa, by the Chinese junks: hence the difficulty of ascertaining the nature of the plant, as few, if any, of the persons concerned in the sale of the prepared article at Canton have ever seen from what it is made.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, *Esq.*

J. REEVES.

Secretary, &c. &c.